

**Sept. 11, 2013**

*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

### **Anniversaries of terror should reinforce our resolve (Rep. Franks)**

Sept. 11th has special meaning for Americans who choose to remain vigilant against networks of terror. Some of us will always associate this day with the horrific attacks on our country at the hands of terrorists 12 years ago in New York City, the District of Columbia and Shanksville, P.A. And sadly now, we have another huge loss to remember on this day every year - the four brave Americans who were facing down these international networks of terror, and lost their lives to that fight in Benghazi, Libya.

Ambassador Stevens, Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods and Sean Smith, and the thousands of Americans who lost their lives to the acts of terror on this day in American history - deserve our *vigilance*. They deserve our fervent commitment to not only root out these networks of hate and fear, but they deserve our proactive efforts to safeguard their families - the ones left behind in the wake of these tragic attacks - from future danger.

The discussion of how to engage the Assad regime on chemical weapons must be fleshed out in *this* context, for the price of freedom comes at the cost of eternal vigilance. We cannot blink for a single moment in the face of vile men like these, who would put young children through the appalling pain of death by chemical weapons, just to gain a tactical battlefield advantage.

These terrorists have now demonstrated on two heartbreaking occasions - last year and twelve years ago - that those who wish to see the end of the United States *will not hesitate* to attack us on our sovereign soil. These enemies who detest all the freedoms Americans hold most dear are smart, patient and committed. Are we *equally* determined to extinguish their ability to instill fear and influence among legitimate governments? Are we willing to face our own foreign policy failures and admit that strategy must change? Are we willing to embrace a global expectation of American decency and leadership, and actually enforce humanitarian action? And are we willing to address the flagrant violations of nuclear weapons programs in Iran and North Korea?

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*Remains of the four Benghazi victims are carried home during a ceremony at Andrews, AFB., Sept. 14, 2012.*

The dangers don't just exist inside missile silos in countries thousands of miles from our shores. The danger lies within the borders of countries that are governed by thugs and don't respect pluralistic and humanitarian governance, but rather empower terrorists to operate as they please.

Bashar al-Assad's actions over the last year have certainly impacted U.S. National Security interests, and anyone who indicates otherwise is sorely mistaken. So this question remains; what actions are *we* willing to take to root out this type of evil before it reaches our shores, or our embassies, again? This question is of incalculable importance with respect to Syria, Iran and North Korea.

On days like today, we should reflect on the lives lost in and the families affected by these past acts of terror, and what we can do to prevent any similar tragedy from befalling our fellow Americans..

### **The Bungling of Syria (Rep. Cotton)**

The Obama administration has grossly mismanaged the situation in Syria on every front possible over the last two years. The president's weak and ineffectual leadership has brought us to this point—the point of action, inaction, or, what now seems most likely, a band-aid approach that

merely procrastinates taking decisive action until the situation in Syria, and indeed the region, deteriorates further.

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*"The Bungling of Syria" - Rep. Cotton*

Yesterday, Syria's foreign minister said that Damascus is ready to sign an international agreement banning chemical weapons and pledged to open its storage sites and provide full disclosure immediately. This accession comes a day after Secretary of State John Kerry made a presumably off-the-cuff remark regarding the only course by which the U.S. would be open to halting military action. While many have expressed optimism with this proposal, a dishonest dictator like Bashar al-Assad, who has time and time again flouted human rights

and international law, cannot be trusted to fully comply with any kind of disarmament agreement.

For this reason, Congress should be highly skeptical about a compromise wherein Syria turns over control of its chemical weapons arsenal—weapons which Assad once said he didn't have, then said he didn't use. What will be the next lie in which he is caught? And will it come before or after more lives are lost in the abhorrent way of the August 21 attack outside of Damascus?

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